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Commission on Narcotic Drugs
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Item 8 of the provisional agenda*
Preparation for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem in 2016

Organization of the special segment on the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

The present report provides additional information on the organization of the special segment on the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem in 2016, to be held as part of the fifty-eighth session of the Commission in March 2015. The report focuses on the content and format of the interactive discussions on the high-level segments of the special session, as agreed at the first intersessional meeting of the fifty-eighth session of the Commission, on 29 January 2015.

* E/CN.7/2015/1.

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I. Mandate and background

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 67/193, decided to convene, early in 2016, a special session on the world drug problem to review the progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments.

2. In its resolution 68/197, the Assembly requested the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the United Nations organ with prime responsibility for drug control matters, to engage in the preparatory process for the special session, including by presenting proposals from the fifty-seventh and fifty-eighth sessions of the Commission through the Economic and Social Council in support of the preparatory process, including progress made in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, to be considered by the Assembly starting at its sixty-ninth session.

3. The Commission, in its resolution 57/5, decided to take all possible measures to ensure an adequate, inclusive and effective preparatory process for the special session by using its existing meetings and reporting entitlements in the most efficient manner. In that resolution, the Commission also affirmed that its meetings would be open to the participation of all States Members and observers of the United Nations, organs, entities and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, multilateral development banks and other relevant international and regional organizations, as well as civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations. It also decided to present proposals, for consideration by the General Assembly, regarding all organizational matters, including the agenda, dates, substantive issues to be covered, outcomes and other issues relevant to the successful preparations for the special session, and it decided that, in preparation for the special session, it would hold formal meetings following the regular part of its fifty-seventh session, including two formal meetings immediately preceding its reconvened fifty-seventh session, in December 2014, and would devote eight meetings during its fifty-eighth session, to be held in March 2015, to the preparations for the special session.

4. In paragraph 14 of that resolution, the Commission decided to recommend to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, the adoption of a draft resolution containing a number of operational modalities for the special session. The General Assembly adopted those recommendations in its resolution 69/200, entitled "Special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016". In that resolution, the Assembly decided that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the central policymaking body within the United Nations system dealing with drug-related matters, would lead the preparatory process by addressing all organizational and substantive matters in an open-ended manner, and invited the President of the General Assembly to support, guide and stay involved in the preparatory process. The Assembly also noted with appreciation "the efforts made by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to take all necessary measures to use its existing meetings and reporting entitlements in the most efficient manner to ensure adequate preparation for the special session in 2016, and requested

the Commission to continue to take all necessary measures to prepare for the special session, as early as possible".

5. Pursuant to Commission resolution 57/5, paragraph 7, a special segment of the Commission's reconvened fifty-seventh session, in December 2014, was devoted to preparations for the special session. At the reconvened session, the Commission had before it, for its consideration, a report prepared by the Secretariat pursuant to paragraph 8 of Commission resolution 57/5, containing recommendations on the preparations for, the possible outcomes of and organizational matters relating to the special session (E/CN.7/2014/17). The Commission also had before it for its consideration a conference room paper containing proposals by the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-seventh session relating to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 (E/CN.7/2014/CRP.15).

6. At its reconvened fifty-seventh session, the Commission adopted decision 57/2, in which the Commission decided the following:

> "(a) In order to ensure continuity with respect to its work preparing for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016, a Board tasked by the Commission with the preparations for the special session would be elected based on the regional distribution of officers of the Bureau of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission. The Board would participate in the meetings of the extended bureaux of the fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth sessions of the Commission and would assist the Commission and the Chairs of the respective sessions in fulfilling their mandate in accordance with Commission resolution 57/5 of 21 March 2014;
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> "(b) The Board would be in charge of organizing all actions to be taken by the Commission in preparation for the special session and will address all organizational and substantive matters, in an open-ended manner, in preparation for and during the special segments of Commission sessions devoted to the preparations for the special session;
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> "(c) The Board would facilitate the participation of all States Members and observers of the United Nations, along with organs, entities and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, multilateral development banks and other relevant international and regional organizations, parliamentarians, the scientific community and civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations, in its preparations for the special session, in full compliance with Commission resolution 57/5 and General Assembly resolution 69/200 of 18 December 2014."

7. At its reconvened fifty-seventh session, the Commission also adopted decision 57/3, entitled "Provisional agenda for the special segment to be held during the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in March 2015, on preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016".

8. The provisional agenda for the special segment was further defined during the intersessional period. Further to negotiations during informal consultations led by the Chair of the Board on 20, 26 and 29 January, the Commission agreed, at its intersessional meeting on 29 January 2015, on the substantive focus and format of

the five interactive discussions to be held during the special segment of the Commission's fifty-eighth session on the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem in 2016, and approved an elaborated version of the provisional agenda for that special segment on preparations for the special session. The provisional agenda and the proposed organization of work are contained in annexes I and II.

9. During the intersessional meeting of 29 January 2015, Member States were reminded that, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/200, the Commission was to make recommendations to the Assembly on the agenda, outcome, dates and modalities for the conduct of the special session to be held in 2016. The meeting was informed that the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management had indicated that 19 to 21 April 2016 were the provisional dates for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem in 2016. The Commission was also expected to decide on the organization of the second phase of its preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem in 2016, covering the intersessional period following the regular fifty-eighth session of the Commission until the holding of the special session.

II. Interactive discussions on high-level segments to be held during the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem in 2016

10. The Commission agreed that it would organize five interactive discussions at its fifty-eighth session, on the following topics:

(a) Demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as health-related issues; and ensuring the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion ("drugs and health"):

(i) Demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as health-related issues, including HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care;

(ii) Ensuring the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion;

(b) Supply reduction and related measures; responses to drug-related crime; and countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation ("drugs and crime"):

(i) Domestic, regional and cross-regional responses to drug-related crime; and countering money-laundering, including, where appropriate, in connection with the financing of terrorism, and promoting judicial cooperation in criminal matters;

(ii) Addressing emerging issues including new psychoactive substances, precursors and the misuse of the Internet;

(c) Cross-cutting issues: drugs and human rights, youth, women, children and communities:

(i) Addressing drug-related issues in full conformity with the purposes and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other relevant international law, including the three drug control conventions;

(ii) Drugs and youth, women, children and communities;

(d) Cross-cutting issues: new challenges, threats and realities in preventing and addressing the world drug problem in compliance with relevant international law, including the three drug control conventions; strengthening the principle of common and shared responsibility and international cooperation:

(i) New challenges, threats and realities in preventing and addressing the world drug problem in compliance with relevant international law, including the three drug control conventions;

(ii) Strengthening the principle of common and shared responsibility and enhancing international cooperation, including technical assistance, leading up to 2019;

(e) Alternative development; regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented balanced drug control policy; addressing socioeconomic issues:

(i) Drugs, addressing socioeconomic issues and fostering alternative development, including preventive alternative development;

(ii) Enhancing regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented, balanced drug control policy.

11. The interactive discussions will be held from the morning of Tuesday, 10 March to the morning of Thursday, 12 March 2015, and will be open to all interested participants in the fifty-eighth session of the Commission.

12. Each of the five interactive discussions will start with a panel discussion. Each regional group was invited to nominate one panellist for each of the five interactive discussions. Each of the five panels could include a representative from a United Nations organization, at the principal level, and would also include a panellist nominated by representatives of civil society. It is recommended that panellists be nominated as soon as possible.

13. Each interactive discussion will be chaired by a member of the Board tasked by the Commission with the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016.

14. The Secretariat has been requested to prepare a short note that could guide the interactive discussions and is invited to make brief introductory remarks.

15. Panellists are invited to facilitate debate through the exchange of expertise, focusing on initiatives implemented and tools developed, and sharing of practical experiences and lessons learned. They are urged to keep their presentations short (a maximum of seven minutes) in order to leave enough time for interventions from the floor.

16. There will be no list of speakers. Delegations wishing to make interventions will do so by drawing the attention of the Chair. Speakers are urged to keep their interventions short (a maximum of three minutes), to refrain from making prepared national statements but, rather, to ask questions or make comments on matters covered and exchange expertise, focusing on initiatives implemented and tools developed, and sharing practical experiences and lessons learned. The Chair is asked to intervene to enforce time limits and to use his or her discretion to select speakers according to the flow of the discussion.

17. The chairpersons of the interactive discussions will make a summary of the most salient points raised during their respective discussion. The summaries by the chairs will be read out prior to the closure of the special segment. The chairs' summaries will not be subject to negotiations.

Annex I

Provisional agenda for the special segment to be held during the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in March 2015, on preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

1. Opening of the special segment.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. General debate on the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016.
4. Interactive discussions on high-level segments to be held during the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016:
   (a) Demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as health-related issues; and ensuring the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion ("drugs and health"):
      (i) Demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as health-related issues, including HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care;
      (ii) Ensuring the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion;
   (b) Supply reduction and related measures; responses to drug-related crime; and countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation ("drugs and crime"):
      (i) Domestic, regional and cross-regional responses to drug-related crime; and countering money-laundering, including, where appropriate, in connection with the financing of terrorism, and promoting judicial cooperation in criminal matters;
      (ii) Addressing emerging issues, including new psychoactive substances, precursors and the misuse of the Internet;
   (c) Cross-cutting issues: drugs and human rights, youth, women, children and communities:
      (i) Addressing drug-related issues in full conformity with the purposes and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other relevant international law, including the three drug control conventions;
      (ii) Drugs and youth, women, children and communities;

(d) Cross-cutting issues: new challenges, threats and realities in preventing and addressing the world drug problem in compliance with relevant international law, including the three drug control conventions; strengthening the principle of common and shared responsibility and international cooperation:

(i) New challenges, threats and realities in preventing and addressing the world drug problem in compliance with relevant international law, including the three drug control conventions;

(ii) Strengthening the principle of common and shared responsibility and enhancing international cooperation, including technical assistance, leading up to 2019;

(e) Alternative development; regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented balanced drug control policy; addressing socioeconomic issues:

(i) Drugs, addressing socioeconomic issues and fostering alternative development, including preventive alternative development;

(ii) Enhancing regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented, balanced drug control policy.

5. Provisional agendas for subsequent special segments to be held by the Commission in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016, and the organization of the intersessional work of the Commission.

6. Other business.

7. Closure and outcome of the special segment.

Annex II

Proposed organization of work for the special segment to be held during the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in March 2015, on preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

Date and time	*Plenary*
Monday, 9 March	
10.15 a.m.	Opening of the special segment
	Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
10.30 a.m.-1 p.m.	General debate on the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem in 2016
3-6 p.m.	General debate (*continued*)
Tuesday, 10 March	
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Interactive discussions on high-level segments to be held during the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016: topic (b)
3-6 p.m.	Interactive discussions on high-level segments to be held during the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem: topic (a)
Wednesday, 11 March	
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Interactive discussions on high-level segments to be held during the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem: topic (c)
3-6 p.m.	Interactive discussions on high-level segments to be held during the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem: topic (d)
Thursday, 12 March	
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Interactive discussions on high-level segments to be held during the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem: topic (e)
3-6 p.m.	Provisional agendas for subsequent special segments to be held by the Commission in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem in 2016, and organization of the intersessional work of the Commission[a]
	Other business
	Closure and outcome of the special segment

[a] Consideration of this agenda item is now scheduled for 3-6 p.m.